

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1703
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 201

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: SDLP GIVES SECURITY POLICY MIXED REVIEW

REF: BELFAST 192

1. IN STATEMENT JUNE 13 SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) EXECUTIVE ALONG WITH EX-CONVENTION MEMBERS RECOGNIZED INCREASED IMPARTIALITY OF ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) BUT EXPRESSED RESERVE OVER STRENGTHENING "SECTARIAN" RUC RESERVE AND ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT (UDR). BULK OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO HAVE A POLICY OF LAW AND ORDER WHICH IS COMPLETELY IMPARTIAL AND WHICH HAS THE SUPPORT AND CONSENT OF ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY,".

"THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO PLACE ON RECORD OUR RECOGNITION THAT IN RECENT TIMES THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING EVIDENCE OF IMPROVED IMPARTIALITY ON THE PART OF THE RUC IN SOME AREAS. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE DURING THE RECENT SO-CALLED LOYALIST STRIKE AND EVEN MORE TRUE OF RECENT EFFORTS TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE GUILTY OF SOME OF THE MOST TERRIBLE
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SECTARIAN MURDERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

WE WOULD WISH TO DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROWTH OF THIS IMPARTIALITY AND, THEREFORE, ARE SEEKING A MEETING WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE TO DISCUSS WITH HIM THOSE MATTERS IN RELATION TO THE RUC THAT CAUSE CONCERN AND WHICH INHIBIT PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE FORCE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IN PARTICULAR THE APPARENT FAILURE IN SOME PARTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO BRING ANYONE TO JUSTICE FOR SERIOUS SECTARIAN MURDERS COMMITTED IN THOSE AREAS.

WE WOULD ALSO WISH TO RAISE WITH HIM ALLEGATIONS IN RELATION TO ACTIVITIES IN BOTH COOKSTOWN AND CASTLEREAGH POLICE STATIONS, AS WELL AS THE CONSEQUENCES FOR POLICING IN NORTHERN IRELAND ARISING OUT OF THE CURRENT CASE AT STRASBOURG.

IT IS OUR WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE POLICING SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND WE, THEREFORE, WISH TO EMPHASISE THAT OUR PURPOSE IN SEEKING THIS MEETING IS INTENDED TO BE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE."

2. SDLP PREFACED STATEMENT WITH "SURPRISE" AT NEW MEASURES (REFTEL) IN VIEW OF IMPROVED SECURITY SITUATION AND ATTRIBUTED THEM TO PRESSURE FROM LOYALIST POLITICIANS AND OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN AIREY NEAVE. STATEMENT INCLUDED EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT "SECTARIAN NATURE" OF RUC RESERVE AND UDR AND ABOUT A ONE-SIDED VIEW OF THE SECURITY SITUATION: "MR. MASON'S STATEMENT LEANS HEAVILY TO THE VIEW THAT THE PROVISIONAL IRA ALONE IS THE ONLY TERRORIST ORGANIZATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. BUT THE STATISTICS OF VIOLENCE STARKLY UNDERLINE THE REAL SITUATION THAT EXISTS HERE."

3. SDLP CLAIMED STATISTICS REVEALED 840 DEATHS CAUSED BY PROVISIONAL IRA, LOYALIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVE KILLED 540 AND SECURITY FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR 200 DEATHS. NO MENTION UNCLASSIFIED

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MADE OF DEATHS IN FACTIONAL FEUDS.

4. RUC LEADERS PLEASED BY SDLP STATEMENT IN GENERAL. IT AND OTHER RECENT UTTERANCES GOES LONG WAY THEY BELIEVE TOWARD "SUPPORT" BY SDLP FOR RUC.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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